

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A valve for use with a form for producing a cast concrete article, said valve comprising:

a. a housing having first and second end portions, said first end portion communicable with a mold cavity, said second end portion communicable with a source of liquefied concrete;

b. a ball member enclosed within said housing between said first and second end portions, said ball member and each of said first and second end portions having a hole therethrough, said ball member rotatable between open and closed positions, said hole in said ball member aligning with said hole in said first and second end portions in said open position to permit said liquefied concrete to be delivered into said mold cavity, and said hole in said ball generally perpendicular to said hole in each of said first and second end portions in said closed position; [and]

c. a bushing member intermediate said ball member and each of said first and second end portions, said bushing member supporting said ball member between each of said first and second end portions, said bushing member defining a space between said housing and an outer surface of said ball member; and

d.[c] said housing having openings created through opposing side walls thereof such that said openings align with said hole in said ball member when said ball member is rotated to said closed position such that said hole in said ball member is accessible without disassembling said valve, said openings further resulting in said space between said housing and said outer surface of said ball member being accessible without disassembling said valve.

2. (Original) The valve of claim 1 further comprising at least one additional opening created through a side of said housing.

3. (Currently Amended) A form for producing a cast concrete article comprising:

- a. a core having an outer surface;
- b. an outer jacket having an upper opening and a lower opening, said outer jacket at least partially surrounding said core, said outer jacket spaced apart from said outer surface of said core;
- c. a header adjacent said upper opening of said outer jacket;
- d. a bottom member adjacent said lower opening of said outer jacket;
- e. said outer surface of said core, said outer jacket, said bottom member and said header defining a generally closed cavity having the shape of the concrete article to be cast therein;
- f. a fill port communicating with said closed cavity for filling said closed cavity with concrete;
- g. at least one vent in said header communicating said closed cavity with the atmosphere to at least one of release trapped air therethrough as said closed cavity is filled with concrete, and provide visual confirmation of said closed cavity being filled with concrete as evidenced by concrete exuding therethrough;
- h. an opening through said outer jacket, said opening communicating with said closed cavity;
- i. said fill port communicating with said opening such that said closed cavity is filled with concrete while said header is attached to said outer jacket;

j. wherein said closed cavity is filled up to said header such that the shape of a top portion of the cast concrete article is defined by said header; and

k. a valve in communication with said fill port, said valve having:

i. a housing with first and second end portions said first end portion communicable with said closed cavity, said second end portion communicable with said fill port;

ii. a ball member enclosed within said housing between said first and second end portions, said ball member and each of said first and second end portions having a hole therethrough, said ball member rotatable between open and closed positions, said hole in said ball member aligning with said hole in said first and second end portions in said open position, and said hole in said ball generally perpendicular to said hole in each of said first and second end portions in said closed position; [and]

iii. a bushing member intermediate said ball member and each of said first and second end portions, said bushing member supporting said ball member between each of said first and second end portions, said bushing member defining a space between said housing and an outer surface of said ball member; and

iv.[iii] said housing having an openings created through opposing side walls thereof such that said openings align with said hole in said ball member when said ball member is rotated to said closed position to provide access to said hole in said ball member without disassembling said valve, said openings further resulting in said space between said housing and said outer surface of said ball member being accessible without disassembling said valve.

4. (New) The form of claim 3 further comprising at least one additional opening created though a side of said housing of said valve.